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Kazakhstan, Republic of Grain and Feed Wheat Update 2002

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Report Highlights:

Kazakhstan's MY 2002/03 wheat production and exports are forecast at 9.5 million metric tons (MMT) and 5.0 MMT, respectively. Iran, Afghanistan and neighbouring CIS countries are expected to continue to be the major buyers.

Includes PSD changes: Yes Includes Trade Matrix: Yes Unscheduled Report Islamabad [PK1], KZ GAIN Report #KZ2006 Page 1 of 2

PRODUCTION:

Kazakhstan's MY 2002/03 wheat production forecast remains unchanged at 9.5 MMT. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, total MY 2002/03 grain production is expected to be 12-13 MMT, including 9.0-10.0 MMT of wheat. MY 2002/03 wheat areas is estimated at 10.8 million hectares, including 600,000 hectares of winter wheat.

Wet and cool weather during June and July resulted good germination. Specialists estimate soil moisture reserves on 30 percent above last year's levels when a bumper crop was harvested. However, this year's output is expected to be lower than last year's due to weed control problems and anticipated additional losses during harvest. Additionally, the lack of capital or credit to purchase inputs (especially herbicides) and harvest machinery is expected to continue to constrain.

Harvest has started in the Southern regions in the middle of July. Preliminary results are better than last year due to heavy rains in spring. Yields for this region are averaging about 1.8 MT/Ha, compared to 1.5 MT/Ha last year.

<u>Locusts</u>: Locust infestation was significantly reduced compared to the previous year due to wet and cold weather in spring which damaged locusts eggs. However, the GOK allocated about \$5 million for monitoring and treating 3 million hectares.

Table 1: Wheat Production, Supply and Demand

PSD Table						
Country:	Kazakhstan, Republic of					
Commodity:	Wheat					
		2000		2001		2002
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		07/2000		07/2001		07/2002
Area Harvested	10500	10500	10700	10700	10800	10800
Beginning Stocks	700	700	1450	1450	5000	5000
Production	9100	9100	12700	12700	9500	9500
TOTAL Mkt. Yr. Imports	15	15	15	15	15	15
Jul-Jun Imports	15	15	15	15	15	15
Jul-Jun Import U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	9815	9815	14165	14165	14515	14515
TOTAL Mkt. Yr. Exports	3668	3668	4000	4000	5000	5000
Jul-Jun Exports	3668	3668	4000	4000	5000	5000
Feed Dom. Consumption	1100	1100	2000	2000	2100	2100
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	4697	4697	5165	5165	5500	5500
Ending Stocks	1450	1450	5000	5000	4015	4015
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	9815	9815	14165	14165	14515	14515

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TRADE

The MY 2002/03 wheat exports forecast is unchanged at 5.0 MMT. According to preliminary data from the State Statistics Agency, MY 2001/02 total wheat and wheat flour exports are estimated about 4.0 MMT. The major importers of Kazakh wheat were Iran (26%), Azerbaijan (12%), Uzbekistan (12%), Tajikistan (10%) and Russia (9%). The State Food Procurement Corporation (SFPC) has completed a few trial shipments to North Africa (Egypt and Tunis) and the Middle East (Jordan and Israel). The GOK considers these regions, together with Iran and Central Asia, as priority for Kazakhstan's wheat exports. JSC Ak-Biday (owner of grain terminal at Aktay on the Caspian Sea) has constructed new port storage facilities, which brings the total storage capacity to 22,500 MT. In MY 2001/02, JSC Ak-Biday shipped about 300,000 MT of wheat via the Caspian Sea to Iran. The company is hopes to increase shipments to 500,000 MT in MY 2002/03.

Table 2: Wheat Trade (000 MT)

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2000		2001				
0.9	U.S.	6				
	Others					
1230	Russia	353				
499	Azerbaijan	468				
439	Uzbekistan	451				
293	Afghanistan	178				
263	Tajikistan	412				
215	Ukraine	15				
108	Turkey	155				
92	Italy	49				
60	Kyrgyzstan	178				
54	Iran	1050				
3253		3309				
141		685				
3394		4000				
	2000 0.9 1230 499 439 293 263 215 108 92 60 54 3253 141	2000 0.9 U.S. Others 1230 Russia 499 Azerbaijan 439 Uzbekistan 293 Afghanistan 263 Tajikistan 215 Ukraine 108 Turkey 92 Italy 60 Kyrgyzstan 54 Iran 3253 141				